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RESISTANCE INFORMATION REPORT

Trends and Developments, WDC, Week ending: 10 May 1968

POOR PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN

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2. Indications are that the Poor People's Campaign (PPC) will accelerate rapidly as a potential problem in control, housing, feeding, and recreation from the time of the arrival of the vanguard, Saturday and Sunday May 11 and 12, at least through 30 May, which is the projected date for a giant march and demonstration through downtown Washington, D.C. Monday, May 13, the initial group is to march across a Potomac bridge (presumably Memorial) to a site on which they intend to erect their so-called "City of Hope" or

"Resurrection City". The site has not been definitely settled but it appears that the March leaders intend to make an issue of erecting same along the mall area south of the reflecting pool. Local officials would prefer the Bolling Air Force Base area for the "shanty town". The midwest caravan is due in the District of Columbia May 16 and the Northeast caravan May 17. Large numbers of participants will arrive independently of the March groups. The Southern group which had intended to use a mule train has had difficulties and may not arrive on May 18 unless change in transportation is effected. Several days which may be considered as critical can already be foreseen over and above the continuing hazards existing in the inflammatory conditions of large numbers of people existing in transient status to protest and demonstrate. May 19, the anniversary of Malcolm X's birth, has been declared as a "black holiday" by Black Nationalists in the Los Angeles area. It has been indicated that local Black Nationalists intend to petition the District of Columbia Bureau of Education to declare May 20 a school holiday. The Peking line PLP has designated May 19 and 20 as National Days for Black Unity against the War in Vietnam and has called for nationwide demonstrations. On 21 May the Poor People's Campaign intends to start marches and major demonstrations in the District of Columbia culminating in a large march on May 30. The Memorial Day weekend seems to be the Poor People's Campaign "D Day" which they intend to be a confrontation with government officials. It is planned that Reverend Martin Luther KING's widow will address the multitude.

Specific daily plans have not been announced and it seems that planning for daily activity will necessarily depend on the numbers of people attending, the reception here, response by Congress, and the ability of leaders to control the throng under extreme difficult conditions during tension building periods and subject to the potential of increased harassment and incitement by militant extremist groups and individuals.

Although this has been designated a Poor People's Campaign, it is obvious that it will not confine itself to that theme, but will be utilized as a propoganda medium for Anti-Vietnam expressions and racist statements.

SOURCE: Various overt sources: - AUTHENTICATION: Reliability unknown

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3. Bernard LAFAYETTE, Jr., campaign coordinator of the Poor People's March is calling for behind-the-scenes signals and mapping plans for the massive campaign of disruption and civil disobedience (in Washington, D.C.) while Dr. Ralph ABERNATHY, Chairman of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, acts as public spokesman. According to government security officials, the violent fireworks that LAFAYETTE is planning could reverberate politically around the world as the Communists launch a new military offensive against Saigon.

LAFAYETTE's plan is to have Mrs. Coretta KING, widow of the slain Dr. Martin Luther KING, Jr., address the revolutionary army after all preliminary negotiations are over. Mrs. KING's call to arms is to set the stage for the May 30 confrontation between the mass gathering of the "Poor Army" and government officials trying to keep law and order in the Capital.

LAFAYETTE, who was picked for his key role last December by the late Martin Luther KING, Jr., has already indicated an international follow-up to the "poor army's" campaign. At a recent briefing at the campaign headquarters in Washington, D. C., LAFAYETTE frankly reported "By the end of this campaign, if our demands aren't met, we expect to have an international movement as well as interracial."

The 27 year old LAFAYETTE was an original member of the Nashville student movement, the forerunner of the massive sit-ins in the South. He was a "freedom rider" desegregating interstate bus transportation. A native of Tampa, Florida, LAFAYETTE has also worked in Chicago with the American Friends Service Committee. A former field secretary of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) LAFAYETTE, before coming to Washington, directed a neighborhood service project in the Negro area of Roxbury, a section of Boston.

SOURCE: Robert S. ALLEN and Paul SCOTT article in Northern Virginia Sun 7 May 1968: - AUTHENTICATION: Reliability unknown

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COMMENT: A. In an FBI report dated 23 May 1967 captioned "Demonstrations Protesting U.S. Intervention in Vietnam" Bernard LAFAYETTE was reported to be an official of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and a staff member of the Spring Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam, New York City. At a meeting held by the committee on the evening of 18 May 1967 in Washington, D.C. at St. Stephen and the Incarnation Episcopal Church, LAFAYETTE stressed the need for recruiting new members into the peace movement. He said that he will be in Washington, D.C. "until the war is over" and that various types of antiwar demonstrations will be held in Washington. The FBI reported that some of the sponsors of the Spring Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam, New York City, included members of the Communist Party and the Socialist Workers Party.

B. A special information report dated 30 January 1968 stated that the Reverend Bernard LAFAYETTE, Jr., was a former field secretary of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), a program administrator for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) as well as being very close to Dr. Martin Luther KING, Jr.

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4. The state board of the Communist Party In Illinois decided that although the demands of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference are unrealistic and its program unclear, there should be a fight to mobilize around this program. The board desired Communist Party participation in contingents from Chicago Illinois in the campaign and CP support for the mass demonstration in Washington, D.C., presently planned to take place on 30 May 1968.

SOURCE: FBI Cable IN 03488 dated 3 May 1968 - AUTHENTICATION: An FBI source who has provided reliable information in the past.

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5. A CID source reported that a group of marchers due to arrive in Washington, D.C. on 13 May 1968 is scheduled to hold a rally at the Cardoza School playground at 5 PM on 13 May 1968. After the rally they will travel to their campsite, place unknown.

SOURCE: U.S. Government: - AUTHENTICATION: Reliable

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CIVIL DISTURBANCES

PROTEST ACTIVITIES

THREATS AND POTENTIAL THREATS TO CIA

1. Georgetown and Connecticut Avenue areas are reported to be subject to burning on 13 and 14 May 1968.

SOURCE: Special Information report dated 9 May 1968:
AUTHENTICATION: Reliability unknown

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